



11 Dec. 2018

The Hon. Ajit Pai, Chairman  
The Hon. Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner  
The Hon. Brendan Carr, Commissioner  
The Hon. Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner

Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
455 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Southwest  
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai:

I write to support the Comments of Brattleboro Community Television, Inc. (File ID 1113560010350) and to disapprove of the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC's September 25 Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in *Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992*, MB Docket 05-311.

Our nonprofit Senior Solutions provides basic services and advocacy for frail, homebound elders as well as other senior citizens and their family caregivers in southeastern Vermont. We *cannot afford to access the commercial media market*, so the PEG organizations are an important part of our outreach strategy. You would not believe how difficult it is to get out the word to the people who need it most in a rural area like this. We have relied on the services a half-dozen PEG/community access organizations, including BCTV, to publicize our social services. PEG empowers Senior Solutions to create videos featuring important topics that help elders, and they air public service announcements for us. This is the type of public good that cable stations need to keep supporting.

Public access TV helps homebound Vermonters stay connected to their communities. Connection has been proven an important part of maintaining a healthy body and mind as we age. Vermont's rural landscape and winter weather can make it difficult for seniors to attend events. They depend on PEG to keep in touch with local issues and happenings. Please don't take that away from them.

The local focus of Community Access enables residents of Windsor and Windham counties to create and watch uniquely local programming about our region and local events and issues. And that was the intent of the PEG provisions of the 1984 Cable Act – to enhance local voices, serve local community needs and interests, and strengthen our local democracy. By defining “franchise fee” in an overly broad fashion to include “in-kind” support, the FCC's proposals will shift the fair balance between cable franchising authorities and cable operators – something that was never the intent of the Act – and could ultimately result in such reduction in franchise fees as to defund PEG Access in our state.

I appreciate your consideration and hope you will protect PEG Access in our community and others by choosing not to adopt many of the proposals in the Further Notice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Janis Hall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Janis" and last name "Hall" clearly distinguishable.

Janis Hall

Outreach Development Coordinator

Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont, Inc. dba Senior Solutions